

4-1-2005

UA68/18/1 Perspectives

WKU Women's Studies & Support Program

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records



Part of the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

WKU Women's Studies & Support Program, "UA68/18/1 Perspectives" (2005). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 1562.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/1562

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact connie.foster@wku.edu.

WALKING THE WALK:

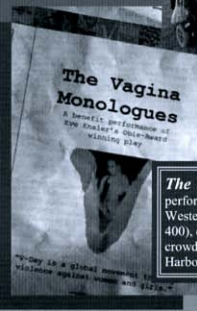
From Books Behind Bars, to Ceramic Vagina Quilts, to V-Day 2005—WS Students are Putting the *Act* in Activism



Women's Studies students put the "act" back into activism this semester! Student volunteers registered students to vote in this year's presidential election during the "Rock the Vote" event in October. Students also volunteered at the local "Vote 'No' on the

Amendment" campaign headquarters, attended and organized rallies, went door-to-door, made telephone calls, wrote letters, passed out literature, sold buttons, stickers, t-shirts, and posted signs.

Inside . . .



The Vagina Monologues, performed by the students of Western Feminist Thought (WOMN-400), once again performed to a standing-room-only crowd, with \$2,267.00 in proceeds donated to Hope Harbor Rape Crisis Center. *Photos page 3 . . .*

Guerrilla Girls (page 6)

Photos by Trish Lindsey Jagers

Inside this issue:

Walking the Walk: . . . Activism	1
From the Director's Chair	2
Talking the Talk	2
Soapbox: V-Day 2005	3
KFWS Book Party	3
WS Annual Awards Ceremony & Luncheon	4-5
Guerrilla Girls	6
Carol Mason	7
Riffat Hassan	7
What do you call it? Student Feminist Art	8
Books Behind Bars: Student Activism	9
Faculty/Staff News	9
gen ^{er} ations	10
Join us! Friends of Women's Studies	11
Graduating Minors and Graduate Students	12

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Trish Lindsey Jagers, *Editor, Graphics*
WS Office Associate
Jane Olmsted, *Director*

CONTRIBUTORS:

Lindsey Bale, *WS Graduate Student*
Jenna Vondran, *WS Minor*

Perspectives

Fall/Spring ~ 2005



© Rainbow Shutter by Jody Chicago

DESIGN BY RACHEL COWGILL & BRIAN GRADY

From the Director's Desk

Better late than never....a day late and a dollar short....or, to paraphrase Oscar Wilde, "We are always late on principle, our principle being that punctuality is the thief of time." (Just google "being late sayings.")

This is the first year since the newsletter first came out, back in 1997, that we have had fewer than two issues. This is partly because some years other faculty have served as editors, and partly because other years, here in the office, we've just held our collective breath and set aside other tasks in order to get the text written and edited, pictures placed, and captions aligned.

This year those "other tasks" have been noisier, clamoring at the gates like an unruly crowd... or slobbering at our knees like an even more unruly dog. (And I like dogs.)

In other words, we've been busy! And if that means one newsletter a year from now on, then let's do it in the summer, when the crowds are on vacation and the dogs are panting in the shade.

I love this program! It's been a great year and I hope you enjoy the glimpses you get in the coming pages. If you like what you see and haven't been a part of any of it, let us know—we'll find a way to put your skills, intelligence, and passions to good use. And if you'd like to support us in "the pocketbook way," please do take a look at our last page.

But first, "find you some shade" and put your feet up!

Jane Olmsted, Director

Et cetera...

Perspectives is published by the Women's Studies Program.

The Women's Studies Center is located at 1532 State Street. Our mailing address:

Women's Studies Program
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. 21066
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1066

Call us...

Phone: (270) 745-6477

Fax: (270) 745-6861

Email & Web...

Trish.Jaggers@wku.edu

Jane.Olmsted@wku.edu

www.wku.edu/womenstudies/

We are...

Jane Olmsted, Director

Trish Lindsey Jaggers, Office Associate

Farrah Ferriell, WS Instructor

Molly Kerby, WS Instructor

Barry Brunson, Faculty Fellow

Shelly Glorioso, Student Office Assistant

Heather Bridges, Graduate Assistant

TALKING THE TALK

Our fall and spring semesters nearly burst with speakers and events!

September

Riffat Hassan delivered a compelling lecture, "Contemporary Muslim Women: Beyond the Images," and conducted a round-table session with interested students, faculty, and staff.

Rock the Vote! Students, faculty, and staff volunteered to register as many eligible voters as they could.

Debate Watch I (Presidential Debate, 2004): Students volunteers worked tables for "No on the Amendment," registered voters, brought food for a shared potluck, and watched the debate.

October

Carol Mason: "The Hillbilly Defense: Gender & Terror at Home & Abroad." Mason delivered a powerful lecture-slideshow and visited classes for discussion.

generations Colloquia Series (See page 8.): "Families with Children by Other Means," was the topic of presentation by Deana Groves (Cravens Library) and Katherine Pennavaria (Glasgow Library).

Debate Watch II, 2004: This final Debate Watch again had our students busy with fliers, posters, and registering students.

November

generations Colloquia Series (See page 8.): "Welfare & Human Services: Serving Women in Hard Times" was the basis of eye-opening discussions led by Pam Priddy, Katrina Phelps, and Becky Bennett.

February

D.I.V.O.R.C.E., a multi-media presentation and panel discussion on the effects of divorce on individuals, was well received by all who attended. Panelists were Judge Margaret Huddleston, Jeannie Adams-Smith, and Jack Montgomery.

Western Feminist Thought students presented **The Vagina Monologues, V-Day WKU 2005** to a standing-room-only crowd. \$2,267.00 was raised for Hope Harbor Rape Crisis Center.

March

The Guerrilla Girls brought together art, feminism, and gorillas to battle discrimination and sexism in their performance.

generations Colloquia Series: "Nine Months . . . and Then What?!" Faculty Maternity Leave Policy at WKU, a panel discussion featuring Tony Glisson, Sally Hastings, Amy Krull, Betsy Schoenfeldt, and Claudia Strow, answered many questions and raised some interesting points with regard to maternity leave policy at WKU as well as other universities.

April

generations Colloquia Series: Women's Studies graduate students Lindsey Bale, Leigh Johnson, and Misty York presented their work: forming a reading group with incarcerated women in the Warren County Regional Jail, researching bee imagery in women's literature, and examining the rhetorical arguments of women's consciousness-raising blogs (internet weblogs).

Wow!

I refuse to think of them as chin hairs. I think of them as stray eyebrows.

Janette Barber

VDAY

UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

The Vagina Monologues, performed by the students of the Western Feminist Thought class, raised \$2,267.00 which they donated to the Hope Harbor Rape Crisis Center.

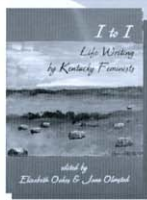


Photos by Trish Lindsey Jagers

Kentucky Feminist Writers Series

November, 2004: KFWs editors Elizabeth Oakes and Jane Olmsted celebrated the publication of their third book in the series, *I to I: Life Writing by Kentucky Feminists*, with a book party at the lovely home of

Jim Skaggs. Several contributors were present for autographs as was Andee Rudloff, whose paintings were chosen to illustrate the covers. If you would like to purchase a copy of this book (\$10), stop by the WS Center (address on page 12), call us at 270-745-6477, or visit us at <http://www.wku.edu/womensstudies> (click on "Publications").



Andee Rudloff, proudly displays two of the books in the KFWs series — the covers of which feature her paintings.



Jane Olmsted and Elizabeth Oakes hold the cake which bore the image of the book cover.

Photos by Trish Lindsey Jagers

WOMEN'S STUDIES 2005 AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004, WOMEN'S STUDIES HELD ITS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON IN THE GARRETT BALLROOM



Jane Olmsted and Elizabeth Oakes, recipients of the 2004-05 Catherine Coogan Ward Feminist Action Award



Amanda Rose Biggs, recipient of the 2004-05 Seneca Falls Personal Empowerment Award (presented by Farrah Ferrell)



Kelli Person, recipient of the Valere Scott Scholarship (presented by Patti Minter)



Heather Bridges, recipient of the Women's Studies Graduate Scholarship (presented by Patti Minter)

WOMEN'S STUDIES AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCHEON



Jeanne Fiene

We wish to express our gratitude to Jeanne Fiene for her commitment to fund a Women's Studies graduate scholarship:

The Esther Fund

This fund honors Jeanne Fiene's mother and all the Esthers in the world who have lacked only opportunity not ability. This scholarship funds graduate students enrolled in the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate who will further serve and educate on behalf of women.

Dr. Fiene writes, "Mom was taken out of school after 8th grade and she was an education advocate. No one in my family has gone past a bachelor's except me, and many haven't finished college. Many days, her support and encouragement carried me.

"So, in her honor—in that Esther moved me just as Esther moved Haman, ruler of the enemy camp, on behalf of her people—let the Esther fund move women forward."



Women's Studies honors **Judy Owen** (retiring) for all her hard work on behalf of WS.



Students (led by Heather Bridges) put on a "mock classroom" skit that had us rolling on the floor!



Women's Studies would like to thank **Farrah Ferriell** for her hard work and dedication over the past four years as graduate assistant, instructor, activist, and friend.

GUERRILLA GIRLS



Bridgette Jagers, student, with G-Girls



Galen Olmsted with a Guerrilla Girl (in front of, and partially obscured by, the Powerpoint Screen) prepares to "read" his script.



G-Girl signs a book while Heather Bridges, WS graduate assistant, and a student look on.



Jenna Vondran (WS minor), G-Girl, and student



G-Girl performs reenactment of a museum encounter—with Galen Olmsted (not pictured).

Photos by Trish Lindsey Jagers

Shelly Glorioso, WS minor, student assistant, with G-Girl



Spotlight on Speakers

CAROL MASON: HILLBILLY DEFENSE

Linking military and popular culture, Mason's "Hillbilly Defense: Terror at Home and Abroad" showed ways that "the hillbilly" is used in numerous acts of scape-goating.



Photos by Trish Linsley Jaggan

RIFFAT HASSAN: CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM WOMEN



Photos by Trish Linsley Jaggan



Riffat Hassan, in addition to her lecture, "Contemporary Muslim Women: Beyond the Images," answered questions and shared personal experiences from the perspective of a Muslim woman with those in attendance at the round table discussion.



Spotlight on Student Activism

What Do *You* Call "It"?

Photos by Trish Lindsey Jagers

Just days before she walked the line to receive her diploma, WS minor Jenna Vondran (Art Ceramics major) had her final showing in the Fine Arts Center. She chose to show her pieces in "the cube," to give her Feminist Art Show more freedom and room.

Quilts comprised most of her work—quilts created by an interesting fabric: ceramic.

"I'm a ceramics major, and



Above: Jenna Vondran with "Cunt Quilt," the ceramic and fabric version of "Vulva Quilt," a drawing by Jenna that now hangs in the Women's Studies Center front office. Between the ceramic "blocks" are color photos (on fabric) of volunteers' vaginas—twelve total. Left: "What Do You Call It?" installation of etched plates.



while I like to do sculptural art, I also enjoy the functionality of ceramics and for people to be able to use it in everyday life. The original title of the drawing was "Vagina Quilt," but after more reading I decided to title it "Vulva Quilt," because the term vagina refers only to the canal, whereas vulva refers to all parts of the female genitalia."

From "Vulva Quilt" Jenna created "Cunt Quilt," a ceramic installation that builds on actual photos (printed on fabric) of the vaginas of twelve volunteers.

"The concept behind 'Vulva Quilt' is to celebrate the bond among women and to celebrate female sexuality. Through my work I hope to expel the concept of our bodies being something to be ashamed of. Girls often grow up with the belief that their genitals are ugly, deformed, and that they must never look at them.

"The concept behind 'Vulva Quilt' is to celebrate the bond among women and to celebrate female sexuality. Through my work I hope to expel the concept of our bodies being something to be ashamed of."



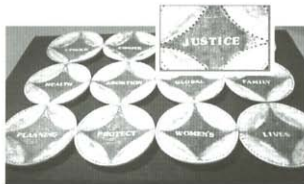
Above: Colored pencil drawing of "Vulva Quilt," the prototype for "Cunt Quilt."



Jenna (background) and detail of "March" plates

Quilting has typically been done by women in groups, which creates a bond between them. Through research I found out that women made "friendship quilts," where each woman has her name on a patch in the quilt (documenting the bond between friends). Although much of women's history has been lost, one way that women made their own record was through quilts. Too often, women weren't able to voice their political ideas, and some of the quilts made political statements. One pattern I found was called the "drunkards path," which made a statement about prohibition. Susan

B. Anthony and other suffragists discussed and came up with political action while quilting. Thus, quilting has been a way both to make statements and tell history and to plan ways to change the status quo."



Left: "March Quilt" with engraved quotations from twelve WKU persons who attended the March for Women's Lives in D.C. last spring.

Right: Thirteen place settings feature "March" quotes and clippings.



Books Behind Bars: Book Club at Warren County Regional Jail

"I need you to turn around and put your hands up against the wall," the guard said to me.

"But, I'm just here for the book club."

"We need to frisk you anyway, because you could hide files in the books or take in pens, which the inmates may use as a weapon," he said.

"Pens?"

"Yeah...some inmates have tried to stab others with them."

"Oh," I said aloud, but to myself I was thinking, *What the hell am I doing here?*

Walking into the Warren County Regional Jail for that first book club meeting, I was equipped with four paperback books, as hard copies are not allowed; notebooks, having no spiral binding; names, which meant nothing to me; and ignorance, as I thought this was just going to be a project. And, like the many other areas of my life, I was going to compartmentalize it—family and friends, masters pursuit, leisure activities, and the jail project. Easy enough...

So, when I was told by the guard that actual danger could occur, an overwhelming fear rushed over me. What is this going to do me? And, I was scared.

I was scared as I stood there with my legs spread, feeling hands roughly pushing into the crevices of my body. I was scared walking down a sterile hallway having doors with massive locks and bolts. I was scared when four faces, reflecting the bright orange of their shirts, sat in front of me. I was scared when I opened my mouth and said, "So, let's talk about some literature, girls."

But, we did talk and have continued. We've talked about life. We've talked about humanity. We've talked about hate. We've



Lindsey Bale with some of the women in the WCRJ Book Club

Photo by Lindsey Bale

talked about love, death, birth, poverty, drugs, evil, history, religion, time, and hope. We've even talked about being scared.

It was during these conversations that I realized I had found more reasons to want to come to the jail than I had reasons to be scared of it. I watched the women laugh as I stumbled through the word *bildungsroman*, I heard a woman interpret a Shakespearean sonnet after the first reading, I listened as the women became more confident in their opinions, and I learned not only their names, but those of their families and of their friends. I, too, even felt as if I were included in the latter, which shattered my itemized categories and "project" forever.

For, the book club is not a project that

can be graded, and it is not about me or incarcerated "criminals." It is about women—women who want to learn and are capable of doing so. And, although I thought I would be the teacher, I am as much a student as they are, because each person in the group has shared their insight and listened and discussed those of others.

We had become a book club. Although we may not be conventional and sit on overstuffed couches sipping coffee, we are a dedicated and growing book club, learning from and discussing not only the classics, such as *Jane Austen's Persuasion* or *J.D. Salinger's The Catcher and the Rye*, but also the literature of all of our lives.

Lindsey Bale, WS

Faculty/Staff News

SALLY O. HASTINGS, Department of Communication, had a paper, "Motivating Students to Develop Social Awareness," accepted to *Academic Exchange Quarterly*. She was also awarded the 2003 Stanley L. Saxton Award for Applied Research.

MOLLY KERRY published "Social Identity and Substance Use Among Lesbians," in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. She also presented her work at one regional and two national conferences.

DEBORAH LOGAN hosted Victorians Institute conference on British Empire studies at WKU in Fall 03. She published two articles in Victorian studies and is working on a five-volume series on Harriet Martineau. Logan received a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Grant for research and travel, spring 2004.

LINDA LUMSDEN published her book, *INEZ: The Life and Times of Inez, Mulholland* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2004), which the *Women's Review of Books* called "absorbing" and

"engrossing." Her paper, "Woman's Angle: Ruth Cowan Nash's Tiptoe Act Across 'Separate Spheres in World War II,'" won third place in the History Division at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication convention in Toronto. Additionally, Lumsden presented her work on Inez at five venues and published five additional articles on various topics relating to journalism.

MARY ELLEN MILLER, Department of English, had an essay, "SACS and the Senior Citizen," published in *I to I: Life Writing by Kentucky Feminists* (2004, edited by Elizabeth Oakes and Jane Olmsted).

ELIZABETH OAKES, English Department, won the 2005 Pearl Award for her collection *Farm Girl Poems*, forthcoming this fall.

ELIZABETH OAKES & JANE OLMSTED coedited *I to I: Life Writing by Kentucky Feminists*, a collection of essays by Kentucky women. See more about the book release on page 3.

Photos by Trish Lindsey Jagers



Deana Groves



Katherine Pennavaria

Families with Children by Other Means

October 2004

generations



Pam Priddy



Katrina Phelps



Becky Bennett

Welfare & Human Services: Serving Women in Hard Times"

November 2004



Tony Glisson, Sally Hastings, Amy Krull,
Betsy Schoenfelt, and Claudia Strow

*Nine Months . . . And Then What?:
Faculty Maternity Leave Policy at WKU*
March 2005



Misty York, Leigh Johnson, and Lindsey Bale

Women's Studies Graduate Students Present Their Work
April 2005



FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES



Friends of Women's Studies serves as a bridge between the Women's Studies Program at WKU and the broader communities of Bowling Green and Kentucky. Its goals are:

1. Carry the Women's Studies mission into the broader community
2. Increase awareness about women's issues
3. Serve as a catalyst for change
4. Fund scholarships, events, and other activities that support women

OFFICIAL FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES

* INDICATES LIFE MEMBER OR LIFE PATRONS

Kathryn Abbott	June Hendrick	Elizabeth & John Oakes
Jo-Ann Huff Albers	Aaron Hughey	Jane Olmsted
* Eunice Blocker	Ladonna Hunton	Elizabeth & James Oppitz
* Dawn Bolton	Trish Lindsey Jagers	* Judy & Ernie Owen
* Jane Bramham	Pam Johnson	* Regina Parsley-Byrd
& Cam Collins	Romanza & Ralph Johnson	Katrina & Nate Phelps
* Valerie Brown	Pauline Griffin Jones	* Jimmie Price
Barry Brunson	* Pat & Nick Kafoglis	Kelly Reames
& Judy Hallisey	Joan Krenzlin	Karen Schneider
* Donna & Charles Bussey	Elise Talmage Lieb	* Valere Scott
Evelyn & Bob Casey	* Dixie & Pete Mahurin	* C.G. Shahmir
* Wilda Collins	* Gail & Cornelius Martin	Patsy Sloan
* Jeannie Fiene	Linda McCray	* Cora Jane & Col. Spiller
Martina Cockerel Gibson	* Mary Ellen Miller	* Dr. Robert Spiller, Jr.
* Elmer Gray	* Patricia & Mike Minter	* Katie & Bob Ward
Katie Green	Charmaine Mosby	<i>Your name could be here!</i>

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

FOWS always welcomes people eager to serve on the executive board. This year, the executive board decided to drop all titles and to rotate leadership at each meeting. Meetings are based on a consensus model of decision-making. Current officers:

Kathryn Abbott
Valerie Brown
Aaron Hughey
Trish Lindsey Jagers
Romanza Johnson
Gail Martin
Jane Olmsted
Julie Ransdell
Patsy Sloan
Cora Jane Spiller
Katie Ward

Persons wishing to be a member of FOWS can do so at various membership levels. Contributions and membership fees support FOWS initiatives: Graduate scholarships, travel scholarships for students (assistance to attend conferences, research, and internships), and community projects such as the Jail Project (see pictures and story on page 9).

2005-2006 WOMEN'S STUDIES MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTION FORM*

**All donations are tax-deductible*

I am a Friend of Women's Studies!

I wish to join at the following level:

- ☐ Friend \$25
☐ Student \$10
☐ Contributor \$50
☐ Supporter \$100
☐ Life Member \$500
☐ Life Patron \$1000

Or, please use my gift for:

- ___ Catherine Coogan Ward Visiting Professorship
 ___ Gail Martin Faculty Development & Lecture Series
 ___ Women's Studies Unrestricted

Enclosed is my total gift/pledge of \$

Enclosed, please find my/our:

- ☐ Check, payable to *WKU Foundation*
☐ Charge to: ___ Visa ___ MasterCard
 ___ Discover ___ Amex

Card #:

Expiration Date: ___ / ___

Send to:

Women's Studies Program
 Western Kentucky University
 1906 College Heights Blvd., 21066
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1066

The name(s) shown on this gift receipt should be

Please make my gift in ☐ honor ☐ memory of:

Address (to send receipt):

Phone:

Email:



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Women's Studies Program
1906 College Heights Blvd., 21066
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1066
270-745-6477
womensstudies@wku.edu

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 398

BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101

WOMEN'S STUDIES GRADUATES

FALL 2004, SPRING 2005

UNDERGRADUATE MINOR AND GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Congratulations to those who completed their undergraduate WS minors in May 2005:

Ann Carman
Stacy Coons
Nicole Dorris
Lauren N. Fromme
Candice Gregory
Benjamin Steven Hagan
Misti D. Harmon
Terry N. Mollie Honeycutt
Meghan Nacke
Lindsey Ransdell
Laura A. Simpson
Robyn Trivette
Jenna B. Vondran



Congratulations to those who completed their WS graduate certificates in May 2005:

Lindsey Bale
Leigh Johnson
Yasamin Shariat
Misty York

If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.

Catherine Aird